

NEWS RELEASE
Office of the
United States Attorney
for the
District of Nebraska
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September 14, 2010

United States Attorney Deborah R. Gilg and the Internal Revenue Service announce the following information for the attention of the media:

Event Triggering this Release:

The Honorable Richard Kopf, United States District Judge in Lincoln, today sentenced Christian Quevedo to 46 months imprisonment followed by three years of supervised release, and ordered him to pay \$79,796 restitution to the United States government. In June Quevedo was convicted following a jury trial of ten counts of filing false claims with the United States, and one count of conspiracy to file false claims.

Evidence at trial reflected that Quevedo, and his co-defendant, Carlos Carpio, both citizens of Peru, filed false tax returns on behalf of other Peruvians who had worked and earned income in the United States. The tax returns prepared and filed by Quevedo and Carpio, however, were false in that income and various deductions were inflated and, in some instances, completely fabricated. The false tax returns generated sizeable refunds, which Quevedo and Carpio directed be deposited directly into their bank accounts. The individual on whose behalf the tax return had been filed was given a small amount of the refund, while Quevedo kept most of the remainder. The evidence produced at trial and at sentencing showed that in 2006 and 2007 Quevedo and Carpio filed 30 false tax returns on behalf of themselves and 24 other individuals claiming tax refunds totaling \$247,019. The IRS paid out a total of \$79,796 before catching on to the scheme and suspending further refund payments.

Carpio did not go to trial. He pled guilty and was previously sentenced to 24 months imprisonment, and likewise ordered to pay \$79,796 restitution. The evidence showed that Quevedo was primarily in charge of devising and executing the scheme to defraud, and received most of the proceeds.

"Today's sentencing of Christian Quevedo again emphasizes that the Internal Revenue Service and U.S. Attorney's office will continue their aggressive pursuit of those who use fraudulent methods in an attempt to corrupt our Nation's tax system." said Toni Weirauch, Special Agent in Charge, IRS-Criminal Investigation, St. Louis Field Office. "Honest taxpayers have been

reassured today that no one is above the law especially when the integrity of tax administration is at stake."

Name of Defendant: Christian Quevedo

AKA:

Age: 28

City of Residence: Lincoln, Nebraska

Crime(s) Charged and Potential Penalty: Conspiracy to Defraud - 0 to 10 years imprisonment, 3 years supervised release, \$250,000 fine and \$100 special assessment and False and Fictitious or Fraudulent Claims - 0 - 5 years imprisonment, 3 years supervised release, \$250,000 fine and \$100 special assessment

Specific Location of Alleged Crime: Lincoln, Nebraska

Location of Arrest: Lincoln, Nebraska

Alleged Dollar Loss/Type and Quantity of Drug: N/A

Others Charged in Same Scheme: Carlos Carpio

Relevant Dates:

Date of Alleged Crime: 02/06/2006 through 04/18/2007

Federal Arrest Date: 10/28/2009

Date Complaint Issued: N/A

Indictment Returned Date: 10/21/2009

Initial Appearance Date: 10/28/2009

Plea or Trial and Date(s): 06/07/2010 through 06/11/2010

Sentencing Date: 09/14/2010

Next Court Hearing Type and Date: N/A

Assigned Magistrate Judge: Cheryl R. Zwart

Held without Bond, or Released from Custody: Held without Bond

In Continuous Custody Since:

Assigned District Court Judge: Richard G. Kopf

Initials of Assigned AUSA/Preparer of THIS Release: ALE